

"Concerning their canoes.

They have a kind of tree in the country called Yga Ywera, the bark of which they remove from the top to the bottom, building a platform round the tree so that they can remove the bark in one piece. After this they take the bark and carry it from the mountains to the sea and heat it at the fire, bending it upwards, before and behind, but first lashing it together with wood so that it does not stretch. In this manner they make their canoes, in which thirty men can go to war. The bark is about the thickness of a thumb, quite four feet across, and forty feet long, some being longer and some shorter."

5: Léry--537
116, 137, 322

(1557-1558) 1906

Tupinamba

"There is also another tree, called by the Barbarians Aiiri, which although it be very like the Palme in leaves, with the stocke armed on every side with thornes and pricks, resembling the points of needles. The Fruite is of an indifferent bignesse, in the midst whereof there is a kernell of the whitenesse of Snow, which yet is not to be eaten; and this I suppose to be a kinde of Ebony: for besides that it is of a blacke colour, and of such hardnesse, that the Barbarians partly use it for the making of their clubs and arrowes (which I will more at large describe when I shall treat of their wars) it is also smoothed, and made very bright, and lastly, is so heavie, that being cast into the water, it presently sinketh to the bottome."

5: Léry--538
116, 137, 322, 534

(1557-1558) 1906

Tupinamba

"The tree called by the Barbarians Choyne, is of an indifferent height, with leaves of the shape and greenenesse of a Bay leafe, with Apples of the bignesse of a childe's head, comming neere unto the shape of the Estridges egges, which surely are no meate. Of these the Tououpinambaultii, by reason of the hardnesse of the shell, piercing some of them through whole, in length and breadth wherewith they make their Maraca or Rattles: they also hollow and divide them into halves, for cups and other small vessels."

6: Abbeville--222

116, 322, 411

(1611) 1614

Tupinamba

... The heart of this tree [MC: toucon-vue palm] is also black and as hard as ebony: the Indians use it to make their swords and bows.

... the men employ themselves making canoes or repairing those which were already made, so that they would be fit for such expeditions. These canoes must be long and wide to contain several persons and carry their weapons and their provisions, and nevertheless they are made of a single tree. They cut it at the foot, trim the branches and leaving only the trunk straight from one end to the other. They split and remove the bark with some of the wood to the width and depth of half a foot. They put fire in the rent with dry shavings which burn leisurely within the tree. As the fire burns, they scratch the charred parts with a steel adze [tille] and they continue until the whole tree is hollowed within, only leaving walls two fingers thick. Then with hand spikes they shape it into form and length. These war canoes can sometimes [23] carry two or three hundred persons with their provisions. The paddling is done by strong and robust young men chosen for that purpose. Each holds a paddle about three feet long and they strike the water perpendicularly and not crosswise.

8: Soares de Souza--213

116, 322, 411

(1570-87) 1851

Tupinamba

The Indians peel the bark from the goayaimbira, from the trunk cut in pieces from 10 to 12 palms [AM: seven feet] long. They remove the skin entirely and make out of it quivers to carry their bows and arrows.

[AM: This is the only mention of the quiver on the Brazilian coast]

8: Soares de Souza--214

(1570-87) 1851

Tupinamba

116, 322, 411

The Indians made their bows of the ubirapariba wood. It has a brownish color.

8: Soares de Souza--216-217

(1570-87) 1851

Tupinamba

116, 322, 501

In the sertão of Bahia grow certain large and tall trees called by the Indians ubiragara [AM: figueira de matto, gameleria Ficus doliaria, Mart.] They easily make canoes out of them, sixty or seventy palms long (42 feet). These trees are easily felled because they are not hard. The bark and the wood are very soft. Two Indians with their axes can remove the pith within three days until only the bark remains. They close both ends and in these canoes 20 or 30 people can navigate.